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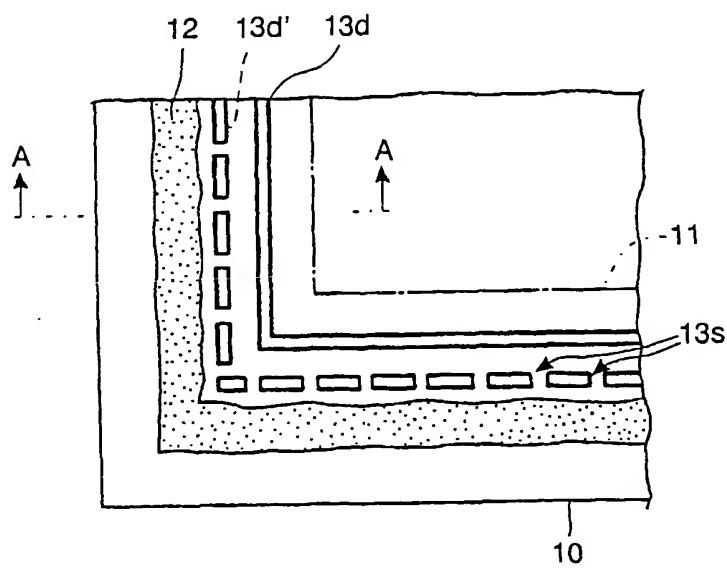
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(54) Title: A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE



(57) Abstract: The object of the invention is to provide a liquid crystal display device which can surely prevent a sealant from flowing into a display area. A liquid crystal display device comprising: two substrates (10, 20) in which a display area (11) is defined and which are overlaid with each other; at least two dam pattern structures (13d, 13d') being provided on at least one of the substrates or provided separately on both of the substrates, which have a pattern of surrounding the display area (11); and a sealant (12) applied to the outside of the dam pattern structures in a form of surrounding the dam pattern structures. The outer dam pattern structure (13d') adjacent to the sealant (12) has a plurality of slits (13s) for causing the sealant (12) to pass therethrough.

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A liquid crystal display device

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a liquid crystal display device, and in particular to a liquid crystal display device that is constructed through a fabrication process to apply a sealant to either or both of two liquid crystal medium sandwiching substrates for laminating those two substrates through a given gap, and for adhering to and sealing them, and then to actually laminate the substrates.

2. Description of Related Art

In a fabrication process for liquid crystal display panels, a sealant consisting of a material such as thermosetting resin paste is used as a material for bonding two panel substrates and for forming a chamber cell into which a liquid crystal material is sealed between the substrates. In general, a picture frame-like pattern of the sealant is printed so as to be located along the fringe of one of the substrates (in other words, so as to surround a display area keeping a given space to the display area). Then, this pattern-formed sealant, after some predetermined processes, is pressed against the other substrate and cured through a heating treatment so that a given gap (liquid crystal cell gap) is formed between the substrates in a substrate alignment process.

However, in these processes, there is a possibility of the sealant leaking or flowing into the display area because the sealant is pressed against the substrate in the substrate alignment process and the sealant may be liquefied or softened in the heating treatment. If the sealant flows into the display area, pixel-forming elements including a color filter arranged correspondingly to the display area and pixel electrodes connected to TFTs might be covered with such flowing sealant or the quality of such elements might be deteriorated, which may further result in the so-called dot defect of the displayed image.

One of the conventional countermeasures against such encroachment of the sealant into the display area has been to provide a much sufficient distance between the pattern-formed sealant and the display area.

However, because of the recent tendency to expand the display area, a (market) requirement that a distance between the sealant and the display area should be

shortened (the so-called narrow frame form) has been getting more and more strong, and therefore it cannot be allowed anymore to disregard the aforementioned problem of the sealant leakage into the sealant. Thus, it is a pressing need to provide a technique for preventing the leakage of the sealant into the display area when the substrates are combined

5 even if the sealant has been put on closely to the display area.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

From the aforementioned viewpoints, it is an object of the invention to provide a liquid crystal display device in which the leakage of the sealant into the display area can be

10 very surely prevented.

In order to accomplish the object, a liquid crystal display device of one aspect according to the invention is a liquid crystal display device comprising: two substrates in which a display area is defined and which are overlaid with each other; at least two dam pattern structures being provided on at least one of the substrates or provided separately on

15 both of the substrates, which have a pattern of surrounding the display area; and a sealant applied to the outside of the dam pattern structures in such a manner that the sealant surrounds the dam pattern structures, wherein the outer dam pattern structure adjacent to the sealant has a plurality of slits (for causing the sealant to pass therethrough).

According to this aspect, the slits or gaps of the outer dam pattern structure cause the sealant to easily pass through a passage and a space between the inner dam pattern structure and the outer dam pattern structure when the substrates are combined and adhere to each other. So, it is possible to suppress leaking out of the sealant into the display area beyond the inner dam pattern structure, that would be caused for some reason.

In the above mentioned aspect, any inner dam pattern structure of the dam pattern structures except for the outer dam pattern structure may have a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

Any inner dam pattern structure of the dam pattern structures except for the outer dam pattern structure may have a plurality of slits for causing the sealant to pass therethrough.

30 In the above mentioned aspect, the dam pattern structures may consist of three dam pattern structures, and the innermost dam pattern structure thereof may have a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

Then the dam pattern structures may consist of three dam pattern structures, and the central dam pattern structure thereof may have a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

In order to achieve the above mentioned object, another aspect of liquid crystal display device according to the present invention is a liquid crystal display device comprising: two substrates in which a display area is defined and which are overlaid with each other; one or more dam pattern structures being provided on at least one of the substrates or provided separately on both of the substrates, which have a pattern of surrounding the display area; and a sealant applied to the outside of the dam pattern structures in a form of surrounding the dam pattern structures, wherein said one or more dam pattern structures comprise a dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates.

Accordingly, the column-shaped section dam pattern structure completely prevent the sealant from coming into the display area, so that the problems previous mentioned can be overcome. Furthermore, this aspect has an advantage that the column-shaped section dam pattern structure can determine a distance between the substrates at a fringe section of the substrates, whereby it will be useful for control/setting of a thickness of the liquid crystal cell.

In this aspect, the dam pattern structure of column-shaped section may have a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

The one or more dam pattern structures may comprise: an inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates and having a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form; and an outer dam pattern structure having a plurality of slits (for causing the sealant to pass therethrough) and being located on a side close to the sealant.

Here, the outer dam pattern structure may have a column-shaped cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates.

Furthermore, the one or more dam pattern structures may comprise: an inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates and having a plurality of slits; and an outer dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates, having a

plurality of slits (for causing the sealant to pass therethrough) and being located on a side close to the sealant.

Preferably, intervals between the slits of the inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section are longer than those between the slits of the outer dam pattern structure of column-shaped section, and the slits of the inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section do not correspond to the slits of the outer dam pattern structure of column-shaped section.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Fig.1 is a plan view of a liquid crystal display panel, which is for explaining the outline of dam pattern (structures) according to the invention.

Fig.2 is a partially enlarged plan view of a display panel, which schematically shows a form of dam patterns and a sealant according to the first embodiment of the invention.

15 Fig.3 is a cross-sectional view at A-A of Fig. 2 to explain the changing of form of the sealant after the process of combining the substrates and the effects and advantages of the invention.

Fig.4 is a partially enlarged plan view of a display panel, which schematically shows a form of dam patterns and a sealant after the process of combining the substrates 20 according to the first embodiment of the invention.

Fig.5 is a partially enlarged plan view of a display panel, which schematically shows a form of dam patterns and a sealant after the process of combining the substrates according to a comparative example.

25 Fig.6 is a partially enlarged plan view of a display panel, which schematically shows a form of dam patterns and a sealant according to the second embodiment of the invention.

Fig.7 is a cross-sectional view at B-B of Fig. 6 to explain the changing of form of the sealant and the effects and advantages of the invention.

30 Fig.8 is a partially enlarged plan view of a display panel, which schematically shows a form of a column-shaped section dam pattern and a sealant according to the third embodiment of the invention.

Fig.9 is a cross-sectional view at C-C of Fig. 8 to explain the changing of form of the sealant after the process of combining the substrates and the effects and advantages of the invention.

Fig. 10 is a partially enlarged plan view of a display panel, which schematically shows a form of column-shaped section dam patterns and the sealant according to the forth embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 11 is a cross-sectional view at D-D of Fig. 10 to explain the changing of 5 form of the sealant after the process of combining the substrates and the effects and advantages of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

The aspects mentioned above and the other aspects of the present invention 10 will be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[Embodiment 1]

Fig. 1 shows in a plan view one of the panel substrates 10 to be used in one embodiment of a liquid crystal display device according to the invention, Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of the lower-left corner of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is an A-A cross sectional view of 15 Fig. 2.

It should be noted that the one panel substrate 10 is combined with another panel substrate 20 (see Figure 3) located opposite to the one panel substrate 10, and a liquid crystal medium is sealed between those substrates to construct a final liquid crystal display device (panel). Besides, it is assumed that the one panel substrate 10 is a substrate in which a 20 color filter is formed.

In Figs. 1-3, a given display area 11 is defined in the panel substrate 10 and an image to be displayed is formed within this display area 11. More specifically, the display area 11 in this example corresponds to an area in which the color filter having a pattern of color elements corresponding to color pixels is formed.

25 Around the display area 11, there are formed an inner dam pattern structure 13d adjacent to the display area 11 and an outer dam pattern structure 13d' that is located nearer to a side edge of the panel (a term "structure" will be omitted as appropriate, hereinafter), the dam patterns being separated at respective predetermined distances from the display area 11. The inner dam pattern 13d has a pattern of surrounding the display area 11 in 30 a generally continuous form. On the other hand, although the outer dam pattern 13d' surrounds the display area 11 in the outside of the dam pattern 13d in the almost same manner. However, the dam pattern 13d' is not continuous but has a pattern including discontinued portions 13s (referred to as "slits", hereinafter). Such slits are only required to

appear appropriately scattered when they are observed from a plan view, and in this example the slits are disposed with generally equal intervals (see Fig. 2).

The dam patterns 13d and 13d' can be formed in a layer of the same level as the display area (color filter) 11 as illustrated in Fig. 3. As for material, the dam patterns 13d and 13d' can be formed from much the same material as used for the color filter or from any other materials including synthetic resins, pigments or metals. Prior to coating of a sealant 12, the dam patterns 13d and 13d' are beforehand formed on the substrate 10 either along with or separately from the color filter formation by means of, for example, an etching process.

10 The outside of the dam pattern 13d' is coated with the sealant 12 in such a manner that the sealant 12 surrounds the dam pattern 13d'. For the sealant 12 not only a thermosetting resin as in this example may be used but also any UV setting resins or any other alternative materials.

15 Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate a state of the sealant 12 before a substrate alignment process. At this point, the sealant 12 still retains its pattern shape as it has been printed.

20 Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate a state of the sealant 12 after the substrate alignment process. In Fig. 3, a sealant 12₀ is shown (by the broken line) which represents its state just after the pattern has been printed. When the sealant of such condition is subjected to the substrate combination (alignment) process wherein the substrate 10 is overlaid with another substrate 20, the sealant 12 will be pressed against the substrate 10 and be forcedly sandwiched between the substrates 10 and 20 so that the sealant 12 may be extended in directions parallel to the primary plane of the substrates (e.g. the left and right directions in Fig. 3). Then, the sealant 12 will be further softened and extended through the subsequent sealant heating process. As a result, the sealant 12 may not only extend toward the outer 25 fringe of the panel but also flow out to a side of the inner dam pattern 13d through the slits of the outer dam pattern 13d'.

30 It should be particularly noted that the sealant 12 may easily flow into a path or a space 13p formed between the inner dam pattern 13d and easiness the outer dam pattern 13d' through the slits 13s, and this easiness relies on the slit 13s which are provided in the outer dam pattern 13d'. In accordance with such structure, even if the sealant 12 is strongly pressed during the substrate alignment process or it is liquefied or softened eruptively during the heating process, the sealant 12 may be prevented from flowing into the display area 11 locally beyond the dam 13d for some reasons, as illustrated in Fig. 5 or by a dash-doubledot line 12, in Fig. 3.

Thus, even if the sealant 12 is put on near to the display area 11, the probability of leakage of the sealant 12 into the display area 11 can become lower, so that it is possible to finely expand the display area while the occurrence of the aforementioned dot defects is avoided.

5 It should be noted that Fig. 5 illustrates a structure in which an outer dam pattern 13d₀ comprises no slit.

[Embodiment 2]

10 Fig. 6 illustrates a schematic plan view of a structure of one panel substrate, dam patterns and a sealant formed on that substrate, which are used for a liquid crystal display device according to the other one embodiment of the invention. Fig. 7 illustrates a cross sectional view from the B-B line of Fig. 6, where the substrates have been combined together.

15 In addition to the aforementioned dam patterns 13d, 13d', the dam patterns illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7 further comprise a dam pattern 13d₂ that is disposed on the inner side of the dam patterns 13d and 13d'. The inner dam pattern 13d₂ is provided to complement the first embodiment and has a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form in the same manner as for the inner dam pattern 13d. Also, formation and material of the dam pattern 13d₂ are the same as the dam patterns 13d, 13d'.

20 According to this second embodiment, the extra dam pattern 13d₂ is provided so as to play a role as a stopper for damming off leakage of the sealant 12 beyond the dam pattern 13d in case of accidental happening. By virtue of this structure, it can be further assured that the sealant 12 would be prevented from flowing into the display area 11.

[Embodiment 3]

25 Fig. 8 illustrates a schematic plan view of a structure of one panel substrate, a dam pattern and a sealant formed on that substrate, which are used for a liquid crystal display device according to a further embodiment of the invention. Fig. 9 illustrates a cross sectional view from the C-C line of Fig. 7, where the substrates have been combined together.

30 A dam pattern 13D in Figs. 8 and 9 is equivalent to the aforementioned dam patterns 13d, 13d', 13d₂ in that it has a cross section extending in a direction perpendicular to the primary plane of the substrate for blocking the sealant 12, but it is different from them in that it has a column-shaped cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates 10 and 20.

Such a dam pattern 13D is completely engaged between the substrates to block any stream of the sealant 12. Therefore, no leakage of the sealant 12 into the display area should occur.

However, the sealant 12 is usually considered to be fluid. So, if the dam pattern 13D shuts between the substrates airtightly, during the substrate alignment process the air included in the sealant 12 cannot be easily exhausted in the vicinity of the wall face of the dam pattern whereby the cured sealant may have some air bubbles. In view of this respect, the following embodiment may be adopted.

[Embodiment 4]

Fig. 10 illustrates a schematic plan view of a structure of one panel substrate, dam patterns and a sealant formed on that substrate, which are used for a liquid crystal display device according to yet another embodiment of the invention. Fig. 11 illustrates a schematic cross sectional view from the D-D line of Fig. 10, where the substrates have been combined together.

The dam patterns shown in Figs. 10 and 11 comprise an outer dam pattern 13D" having slits 13S" that have the same function as the slits 13s for the aforementioned dam pattern 13d' and an inner dam pattern 13D' having slits 13S' for exhausting the air. Each of these dam patterns 13D", 13D' has a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates 10 and 20. In particular, as shown in Fig. 10, the slits 13S' of the dam pattern 13D' and the slits 13S" of the dam pattern 13D" are positioned so as not to correspond to each other. Furthermore, in this example, the intervals between the slits 13S" are set to be longer than those between the slits 13S'.

By virtue of such structure, the sealant could more easily pass through the slits 13S" of the outer dam pattern 13D", and accordingly the air could be more easily exhausted, so that the generation of the air bubbles as mentioned above can be prevented in the finished product.

[Variations]

Although in the above embodiments it has been assumed that one of the substrates is a panel substrate (front substrate) in which the color filter has been formed, the dam patterns shown in the Embodiments 1-4 may be disposed on another substrate opposite to the front substrate (rear substrate in which, for example, thin film transistors for driving pixels are formed). Also, the coating of the sealant 12 on the front substrate is not limited. Instead, the sealant 12 may be put on only the rear substrate, and may be put on both substrates.

Moreover, such dam patterns as shown in the Embodiments 1 and 2 may be applied to both of the front and rear substrates. In this case, the effect of preventing the leakage of the sealant into the display area could be more enhanced. Also, it is a matter of course that each of such dam patterns as shown in the Embodiments 1, 2 and 4 may be 5 individually applied to either front substrate or rear substrate, as appropriate.

Besides, although the number of the dam patterns shown in the aforementioned embodiments has been one to three, any number of the dam patterns may be applicable to the invention. The invention essentially aims to provide a constitution with certain contrivance for preventing the leakage of the sealant into the display area. Therefore, 10 it should be noted that the concept of the invention is not to focus on the number of the dam patterns but to prevent unexpected local flow of the sealant into the display area. And to this end, it is proposed to provide slits to the dam pattern located relatively near to the sealant side in the case of two or more fence-like cross-section dam patterns having cross sections that extend in a direction perpendicular to a main surface of the substrate terminating at an 15 intermediate position between the substrates, or to provide a dam pattern itself having a column-shaped section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates.

Furthermore, in the Embodiments 1 and 2, only purport based on a combination of the intermittent dam pattern with some slits and the continuous dam pattern 20 without any slits has been introduced, but, in accordance with purport based on the embodiment of Fig. 10, another combination in which only intermittent dam patterns are combined may be possible.

Nothing to say, any other various variations may be implemented in the invention. For example, the sealant may comprise an ultraviolet curing (setting) resin, and the 25 invention may be applicable to any other substrates in which the color filter and the display area are not matched each other.

Furthermore, although this specification has descriptions that the sealant takes a shape surrounding the display area at its application stage, the cured sealant, in fact, is usually a frame-shaped pattern having some opening portion for implanting the liquid crystal 30 medium. This specification does not refer to this respect for the simplification purpose. In addition, such dam patterns as mentioned in the Embodiments 3 and 4 have to make allowances for such implantation of the liquid crystal material, but in these embodiments the corresponding description also has been omitted.

The preferred embodiments described herein are therefore illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims and all variations which come within the meaning of the claims are intended to be embraced therein.

CLAIMS:

1. A liquid crystal display device comprising:
two substrates in which a display area is defined and which are overlaid with
each other;

5 at least two dam pattern structures being provided on at least one of the
substrates or provided separately on both of the substrates, which have a pattern of
surrounding the display area; and

10 a sealant applied to the outside of the dam pattern structures in such a manner
that the sealant surrounds the dam pattern structures,

wherein the outer dam pattern structure adjacent to the sealant has a plurality

15 of slits.

2. A device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that any inner dam pattern
structure of the dam pattern structures except for the outer dam pattern structure has a pattern
of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

15

3. A device as defined in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that any inner dam
pattern structure of the dam pattern structures except for the outer dam pattern structure has a
plurality of slits.

20 4. A device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the dam pattern structures
essentially consist of three dam pattern structures, and the innermost dam pattern structure
thereof has a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

25 5. A device as defined in Claim 4, characterized in that the dam pattern structures
essentially consist of three dam pattern structures, and the central dam pattern structure
thereof has a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

6. A liquid crystal display device comprising:

two substrates in which a display area is defined and which are overlaid with each other;

5 one or more dam pattern structures being provided on at least one of the substrates or provided separately on both of the substrates, which have a pattern of surrounding the display area; and

a sealant applied to the outside of the dam pattern structures in a form of surrounding the dam pattern structures,

10 wherein said one or more dam pattern structures comprise a dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates.

7. A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 6, characterized in that the dam pattern structure of column-shaped section have a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form.

15

8. A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 6, characterized in that said one or more dam pattern structures comprise:

20 an inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates and having a pattern of surrounding the display area in a generally continuous form; and

an outer dam pattern structure having a plurality of slits and being located on a side close to the sealant.

9. A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 8, characterized in that the outer dam pattern structure has a column-shaped cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates.

10. A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 6, characterized in that said one or more dam pattern structures comprise:

30 an inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates and having a plurality of slits; and

an outer dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates, having a plurality and being located on a side close to the sealant.

5 11. A liquid crystal display device according to Claim 10, characterized in that intervals between the slits of the inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section are longer than those between the slits of the outer dam pattern structure of column-shaped section, and the slits of the inner dam pattern structure of column-shaped section do not correspond to the slits of the outer dam pattern structure of column-shaped section.

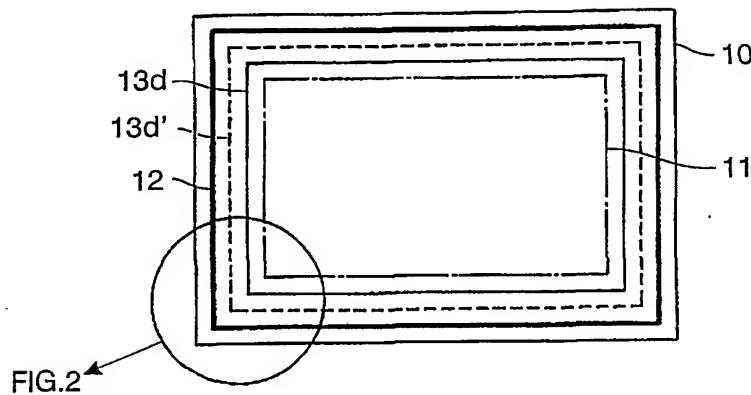


FIG. 1

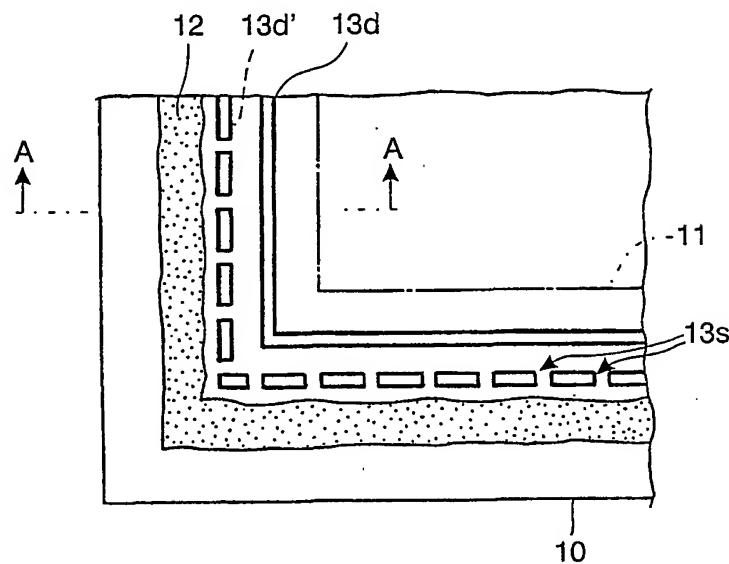


FIG. 2

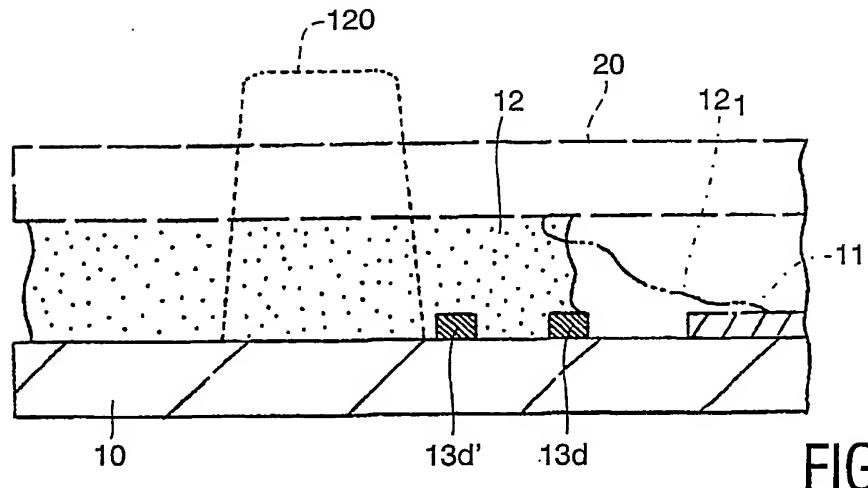


FIG. 3

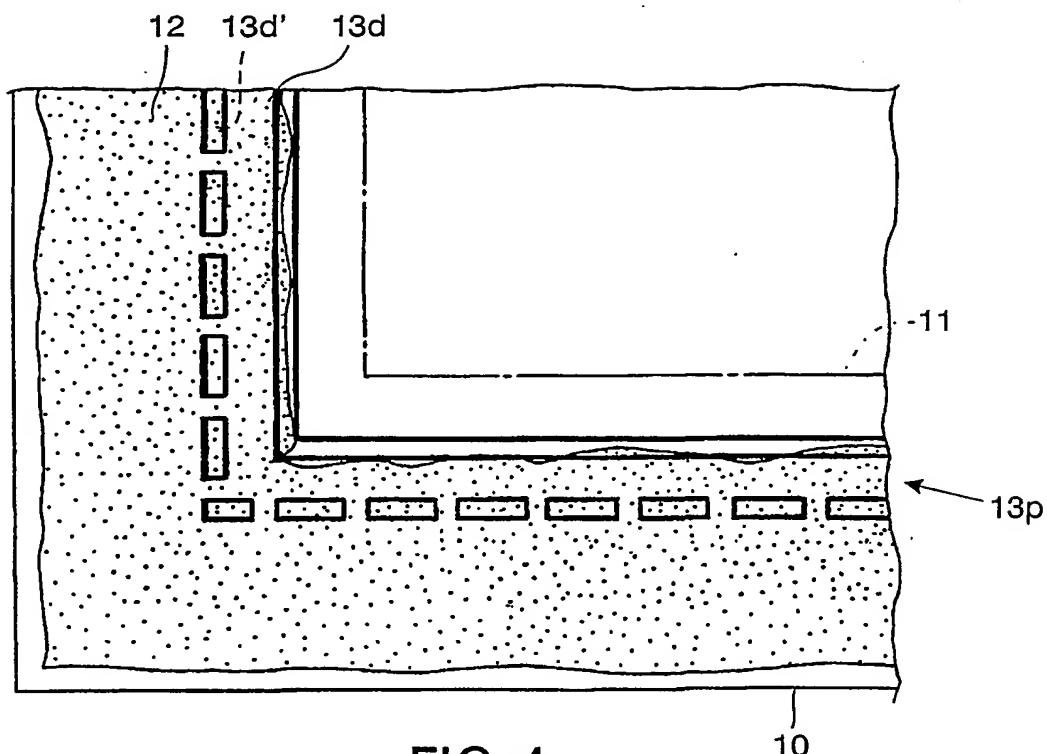


FIG. 4

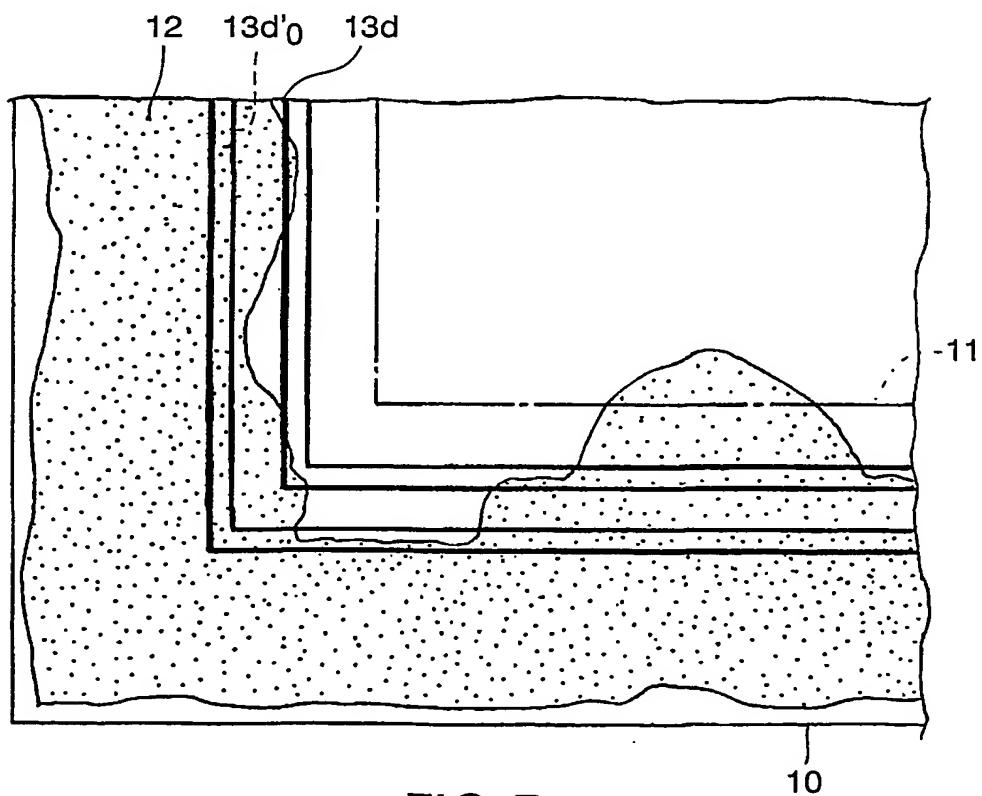


FIG. 5

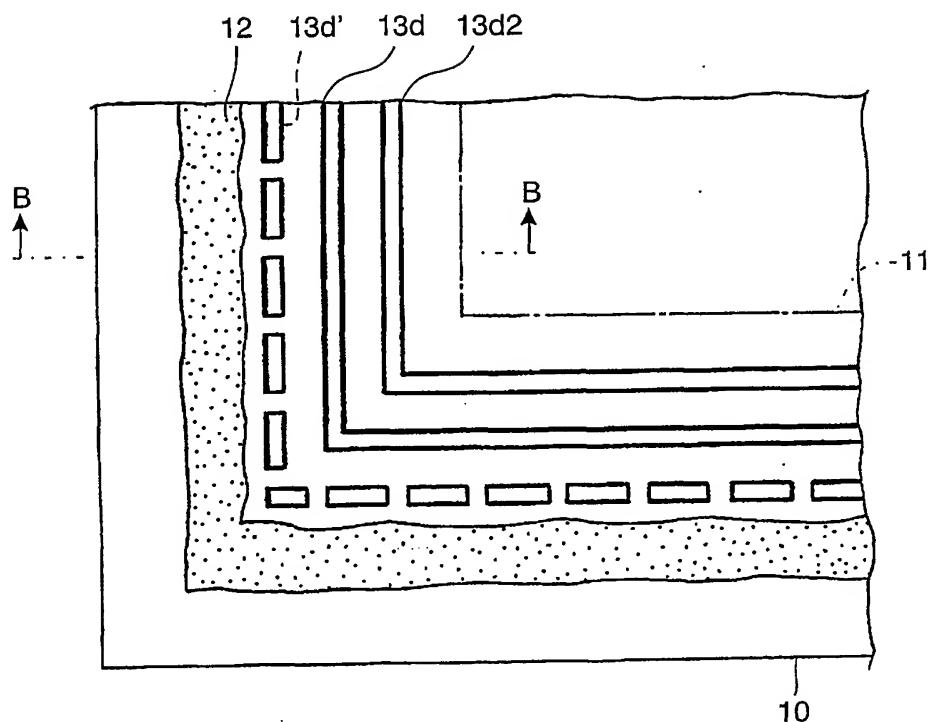


FIG.6

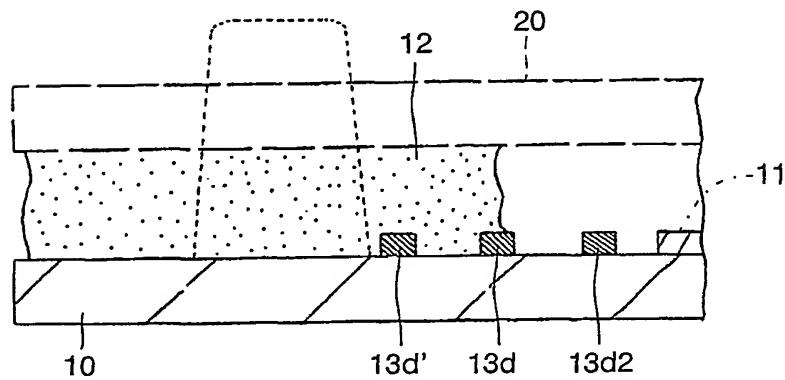


FIG.7

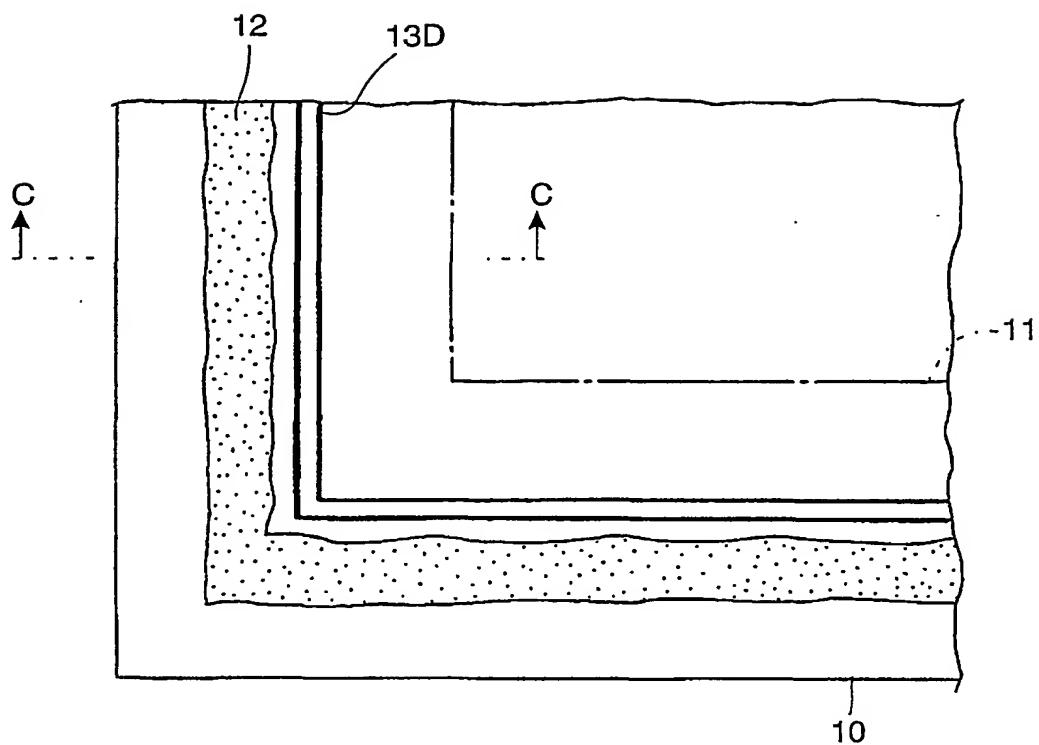


FIG.8

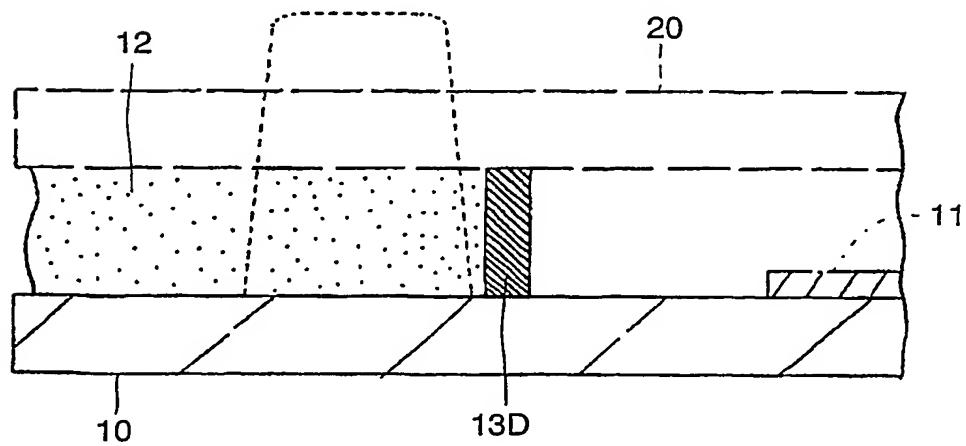


FIG.9

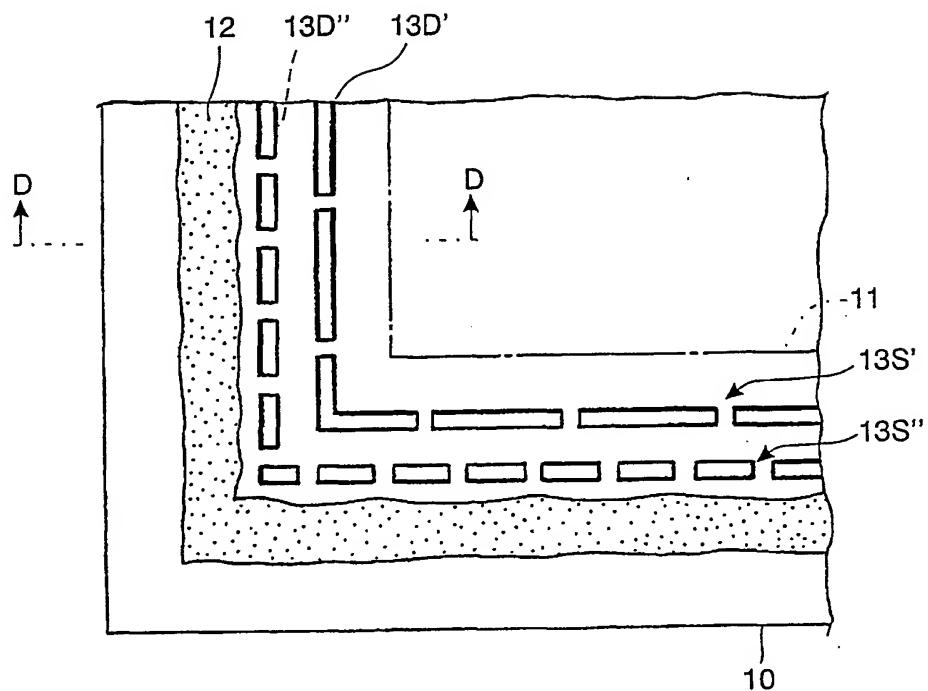


FIG.10

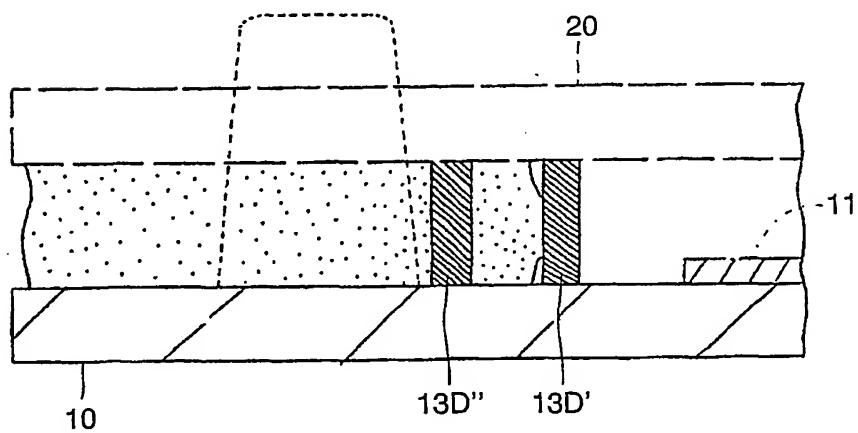


FIG.11



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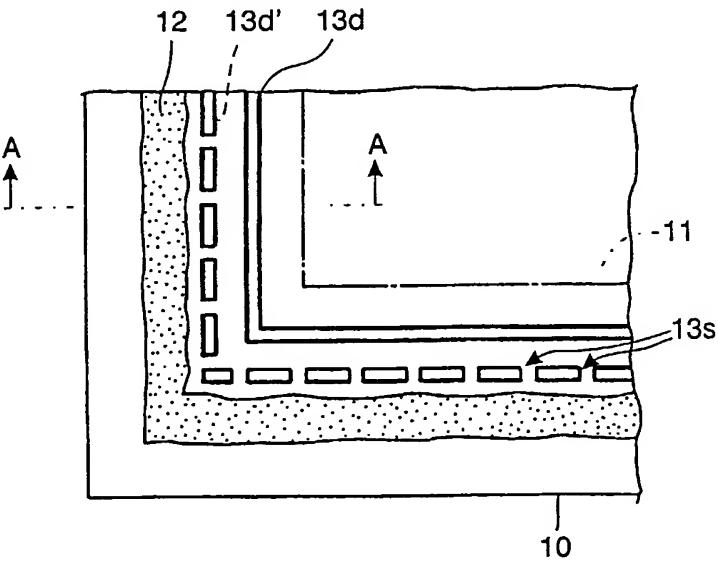
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G02F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 199 51 686 A (IBM) 18 May 2000 (2000-05-18) in particular figure 3 the whole document ---	1-5
A	US 4 315 668 A (AFTERGUT SIEGFRIED ET AL) 16 February 1982 (1982-02-16) claims 1-3; figure 2C ---	1-5
A	"ORGANIC RESIN STRUCTURE IN LIQUID CRYSTAL CELL FOR CELL THICKNESS CONTROL" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, IBM CORP. NEW YORK, US, vol. 40, no. 12, 1 December 1997 (1997-12-01), pages 117-118, XP000754109 ISSN: 0018-8689 the whole document ---	1-5
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 August 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/11/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA
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Authorized officer

Lerbinger, K

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB 02/00618

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 007, no. 015 (P-169), 21 January 1983 (1983-01-21) & JP 57 171319 A (HITACHI SEISAKUSHO KK), 21 October 1982 (1982-10-21) abstract -----	1

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB 02/00618

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-5

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-5

A liquid crystal display device comprising a dam pattern structure adjacent to the sealant which dam pattern structure has a plurality of slits.

2. Claims: 6-11

A liquid crystal display device comprising a dam pattern structure of column-shaped section having a cross-section connecting between mutually opposite faces of one and another of the substrates.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 02/00618

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 19951686	A 18-05-2000	JP 2000137234 A	DE 19951686 A1	16-05-2000 18-05-2000
US 4315668	A 16-02-1982	NONE		
JP 57171319	A 21-10-1982	NONE		